



# Recycling Lines

Electronic Newsletter

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*Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement*

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**DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.**

**Welcome to Recycling Lines, We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related recycling. Let us know by sending this information to Steve Coe at [gscoe@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:gscoe@deq.virginia.gov).**

## **Office Depot Offers Electronics Recycling at all of their Stores**

The Office Depot is providing boxes to customers for a nominal fee to collect unwanted electronics. The electronics recycling program is called Tech Recycling Service and is available throughout the country. The Office Depot piloted the program at 100 stores in 2006 and collected 108,000 pounds of e-waste.

Go to:

[http://www.officedepot.com/promo.do?file=/promo/pages/0928\\_recycling.jsp](http://www.officedepot.com/promo.do?file=/promo/pages/0928_recycling.jsp)

## **Really Successful E-waste Collections**

**Hollins' University, University of Richmond, Virginia Tech and Old Dominion University** partnered together to sponsor a free e-waste collection October 10 – 13, 2007.

The universities hoped to collect 200 tons of e-waste. The collections were so successful that the official tonnage has yet to be calculated. Hollins University filled 17 tractor-trailers with e-waste while 10 truckloads were sent from the University of Richmond; and Virginia Tech and Old Dominion University sent more than four truckloads of electronics to be recycled.

All of the collected e-waste will be taken to Metech's plant in Worcester, Massachusetts for the disassembly and recycling process. The cost of the e-waste recycling project was underwritten by a corporate sponsor that wished to remain anonymous.

For more information about this e-cycling project, contact Andrew McManus with Metech International at (888) 638-2761 or email Metech International by visiting their website at:

<http://www.metechgroup.com/index.html>

## **Recycling Network**

All-Scrap LLC has launched a portal to connect buyers and sellers of recyclable materials. The website is intended for recyclers, recycling equipment manufacturers, waste management companies, and any other businesses associated with the recycling industry. The purpose of All-Scrap is to bring buyers and sellers of recyclable materials together.

For more information go to: [www.all-scrap.com](http://www.all-scrap.com)

## **Did You Know?**

- ✓ The 2006 Recycling Rate for Virginia has been calculated. The recycling rate for CY 2006 is 38.4 percent. Go to: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/recycle/mandatory.html> to read the recycling rate report and to get additional history about recycling rates in Virginia.
- ✓ The EPA is hosting a Recycling and Solid Waste Management Educational Series to provide training and networking opportunities to state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations interested in decreasing waste, increasing reuse, recycling and pollution prevention and conserving energy and materials. The webcasts are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month through September 2008 from 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. For more information, go to <http://www.epa.gov/region1/RCCedu/>
- ✓ America Recycles Day is November 15, 2007. Contact Erica Trout of the Virginia Recycling Association to find out what is happening in Virginia at (804) 302-4231 or [ericatrout@msn.com](mailto:ericatrout@msn.com) or visit the VRA website at: <http://www.vrarecycles.org/>
- ✓ The Recycling Markets Development Council will hold their next meeting on December 6, 2007 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Piedmont Office located at 4949-A Cox Road, Glen Allen. For more information contact Steve Coe at 804-698-4029 or [gscoe@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:gscoe@deq.virginia.gov)
- ✓ The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) announced that the entry forms for the 2008 AF&PA Recycling Awards are available at <https://paperrecyclingawards.org/>. The deadline for submission is January 31, 2008.

## **What's New with the EPA?**

The EPA created a monthly newsletter called; "Go Green!" It has information about activities and events that the EPA hopes people will find interesting and helpful.

To see the newsletter archive and to sign up to receive the newsletter, go to [www.epa.gov/newsroom/gogreen/](http://www.epa.gov/newsroom/gogreen/)

## Recycling Lines Continued

### Chesterfield County Waste and Resource Recovery Program Joins the EPA's National Environmental Performance Track Program

The EPA Performance Track program recognizes facilities that implement high-quality environmental management systems and are striving to continually improve their environmental performance. Each entity that applies for membership in the program must meet the following criteria:

- ✓ **Environmental Management System (EMS)** – The EMS must be in place for at least one complete cycle.
- ✓ **Sustained Compliance** – The business must have a record of compliance with environmental laws.
- ✓ **Continuous Improvement** – The applicant must demonstrate previous environmental achievements and commit to four quantitative goals.
- ✓ **Public Outreach** – The applicant must be active within the community and must complete an annual performance report to reflect the accomplishments made during the previous year.

Ten businesses across Virginia are members of this program, with Chesterfield's W.A.R.R. program being the most recent member to be accepted.

W.A.R.R. reports that they have trained their employees on recycling options so that they can educate their customers about recycling and disposal options when they visit convenience centers in the County. They have also provided information kiosk's at convenience centers with literature on all re-use and recycling programs available. Chesterfield County also holds a yearly environmental fair designed to educate citizens on waste and resource recovery efforts made by the county.

The EPA has posted the applications from the businesses that they have accepted into the Environmental Performance Track program. For more information about the Performance Track Program, go to [www.epa.gov/performance-track](http://www.epa.gov/performance-track)

For more information about Chesterfield County's Waste and Resource Recovery Program, contact Barry Matthews, Waste and Resource Recovery Manager at [matthewsb@chesterfield.gov](mailto:matthewsb@chesterfield.gov) or (804) 786-1493.

#### Web Link of Interest:

Check out the National Recycling Coalition's America Recycles Day website at:

<http://nrc-recycle.org/americanrecycles.aspx>

### Food Waste Composting

Fox News did a segment on how a composting facility in Pennsylvania collects food waste and turns it into compost. Check out this story by visiting the following link:

<http://www.wsaemc.org/recycling/Ned%20Foley-01.wmv>

### Virginia Tech Restarts Paper Recycling Program

In October, **Virginia Tech** reinstated its paper recycling program which had been cut in 2002. Recently, after student lobbying included a petition with more than 7,000 signatures, the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors reallocated funds for Virginia Tech's recycling program.

With the paper recycling program reinstated, Larry Bechtel, Tech's Recycling Manager, expects that the university will be able to recycle 25 percent of their waste.

For more information about Virginia Tech's recycling program, visit the Virginia Tech Physical Plant Operation website at:

<http://facilities.vt.edu/physicalplant/depts.asp?value=recycling> or contact Mr. Bechtel at [lbechtel@vt.edu](mailto:lbechtel@vt.edu) or (540) 231-9915

### National Recycling Statistics from Keep America Beautiful

KAB reported that volunteers who participated in the Great American Cleanup from March 1 – May 31, 2007 reported that the following had been collected and recycled:

- ✓ 70.6 million plastic bottles
- ✓ 2.2 million tires
- ✓ 22.4 million pounds of aluminum and steel
- ✓ 592 pounds of cell phones
- ✓ 115,000 batteries
- ✓ 23 million pounds of newspaper
- ✓ 4.5 million pounds of clothing
- ✓ 5.3 million pounds of electronic scrap.

Approximately 2.8 million volunteers reported that they worked 7.7 million hours as part of the Great American Cleanup.

For more information, visit the KAB website at [www.kab.org](http://www.kab.org)

### A Pilot School Paper Recycling Program

The **Central Virginia Waste Management Authority (CVWMA)** selected 13 schools to participate in a two-year pilot study to find out how much paper can be collected from schools. The participating schools received a recycling bin for each classroom, a bathroom scale for weighing the paper in pounds, a weight tracking form, monthly reporting form, and a service request form.

Schools are encouraged to chart their paper recycling progress on a bulletin board in a central area in the school so that everyone can see the amount of paper generated and recycled.

For more information contact Kelly Hope, CVWMA Director of Public Affairs, at 804-359-8413 or [khope@cvwma.com](mailto:khope@cvwma.com)

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